



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,610	07/28/2003	Wein Town Sun	TOP 300	4282
23995	7590	01/25/2006	EXAMINER	
RABIN & Berdo, PC 1101 14TH STREET, NW SUITE 500 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			BODDIE, WILLIAM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2674	

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,610

Applicant(s)

SUN, WEIN TOWN

Examiner

William Boddie

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. In communication dated, 12/28/05, the Applicant amended claims 1 and 7, and added new claim 11. The Applicant also submitted two replacement-drawing sheets and several amendments to the specification. Currently claims 1-11 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed 12/28/05 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows:

- 1) the lack of control signals being supplied to the first comparator, as shown in the replacement figure 2
- 2) the use of previous sets of control signals (n-1th signals) as claimed in claims 1, 7, and 11
- 3) the resetting of comparators as claimed in claim 11.

These topics are not discussed anywhere in the original specification.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the

Art Unit: 2674

art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

6. While the Applicant points to page 7, line 5 to page 8, line 6 to enable the new limitations, these lines do not sufficiently disclose the new limitations as claimed and shown in the replacement drawings. Specifically there is no mention of the first comparator not receiving the control signals as shown in replacement figure 2. There is also no mention of the comparators receiving a previous control signal (n-1th signal). Additionally claim 11 includes the limitation that the (n-1)-th control signal resets the comparator; there is never any mention in the original disclosure of any resetting of the comparators.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al. (US 6,664,943) in view of Ogawa et al. (US 6,236,393).

With respect to claim 1, Nakajima discloses, a liquid crystal display device having a driving circuit and a plurality of pixel units formed in combination, capable of accepting a digital signal input, comprising:

- at least one pulse generator (121 in fig. 1) for generating a sample pulse (SP in fig. 18) which samples in time series an input digital signal (digital data in fig. 1) corresponding to a pixel (121 in fig. 1) and generating a plurality of control signals (note the signal SP that is fed through 110 and 108 in fig. 18, this inverted signal is generated numerous times for the plurality of comparators);
- at least one sampler (105 in fig. 18) for sampling the input digital signal (in1 in fig. 18) in response to the sampling pulses (105 in fig. 18);
- at least one comparator (100 in fig. 18, and col. 21, line 2) receiving a sampled digital signal (in1 is sampled in fig. 18) for comparison with reference voltage (in2), and outputting a comparison result (111 in fig. 18, also note col. 21, lines 58-60), and being controlled by the n-th control signals among the plurality of control signals (note the correspondence between the signal operating the sampling switches and the signal operating the power switch of the comparator);
- at least one latch for holding the comparison result (123 in fig. 1);
- and at least one digital-to-analog converter (125 in fig. 1) generating an analog signal based on the received digital signal, then applying the analog signal to a corresponding pixel (see fig. 1).

Nakajima does not expressly disclose, wherein the comparator further receives the (n-1)-th control signals among the plurality of control signals.

Ogawa discloses, a comparator (400 in fig. 21b) receiving the (n-1)-th control signals (SPI in fig. 21b) among the plurality of control signals (n-th control signal is SP0 seen in fig. 21b, also note fig. 33, which shows a higher level view).

Ogawa and Nakajima are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor namely, specific display element control elements.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the inverter and power control of Nakajima's comparator with a power saving control circuit and its connections, as taught by Ogawa.

The motivation for doing so would have been to conserve power (col. 17, lines 41-45, Ogawa).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Ogawa with Nakajima for the benefit of power conservation to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, Nakajima and Ogawa disclose, the liquid crystal display device of claim 1 (see above).

Ogawa further discloses, an analog buffer located in between the digital-to-analog converter and the corresponding pixel (577 in fig. 45, col. 3, lines 27-32).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include analog buffers, disclosed by Ogawa, in between the digital-to-analog converter and the corresponding pixel of Nakajima.

The motivation for doing so would have been to amplify the analog signal (Ogawa, col. 3, lines 27-32).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Ogawa and Nakajima for the benefit of amplifying the analog signal to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

With respect to claim 3, Nakajima and Ogawa disclose, the liquid crystal display device of claim 1 (see above).

Nakajima further discloses, level converters (124 in fig. 1) for converting the held digital signal to a signal having a high signal level and outputting the signal to the digital-to-analog converter (col. 12, lines 15-24).

With respect to claim 4, Nakajima and Ogawa disclose, the liquid crystal display device of claim 1 (see above).

Nakajima further discloses, wherein the level of the reference voltage is half the amplitude of the input digital signal (col. 21, lines 41-44; half the amplitude of the input digital signal in1 is within the disclosed range of 0 volts and V_p).

With respect to claim 5, Nakajima and Ogawa disclose, the liquid crystal display device of claim 1 (see above).

Nakajima further discloses, wherein the sampler is a switch (105 and 106 in fig. 18).

With respect to claim 6, Nakajima and Ogawa disclose, the liquid crystal display device of claim 1 (see above).

Nakajima further discloses, wherein the pulse generator is a shift register (121 in fig. 1).

With respect to claim 7, Nakajima discloses, a liquid crystal display device having a driving circuit and a plurality of pixel units formed in combination (fig. 2), capable of accepting a digital signal input, comprising:

a shift register for generating a sample pulse which samples in time series an input digital signal corresponding to a pixel (121 in fig. 1, also note fig. 23) and generating a plurality of control signals (note the signal SP that is fed through 110 and 108 in fig. 18, this inverted signal is generated numerous times for the plurality of comparators);

a data bus (b0,b1,b2 in fig. 23);

a set of switches for sampling an input digital signal in the data bus in response to the sampling pulses, wherein the number of the switches is equal to the number of data line in the liquid crystal display device (fig. 18 shows the general circuitry of the sampling latches, used in Nakajima, that comprises a switch for in2. As shown in fig. 23 this sampling latch circuitry is copied for each data line. Thus each data line is afforded an individual switch);

a set of comparators, each coupled to one switch (105 in fig. 18), having a first input terminal for receiving a digital signal sampled by the corresponding switch (in1 in fig. 18) and a second input terminal for receiving a reference voltage (in2 in fig. 18), and comparing the digital signal and the reference voltage to output a comparison (also note the merits for rejection of the comparators in claim 1); wherein the n-th comparator among the set of comparators is controlled by the n-th control signal of the plurality of

Art Unit: 2674

control signals (note the correspondence between the signal operating the sampling switches and the signal operating the power switch of the comparator);

a set of latches, each coupled to one of the comparators for holding the comparison result (123 in fig. 1); and

a set of digital-to-analog converters (125 in fig. 23), each coupled to one of the latches (123 in fig. 23) for generating an analog signal based on a digital signal held by the corresponding latch and applying the analog signal to a corresponding pixel.

Nakajima does not expressly disclose, wherein the comparator further receives the (n-1)-th control signals among the plurality of control signals.

Ogawa discloses, a comparator (400 in fig. 21b) receiving the (n-1)-th control signals (SPI in fig. 21b) among the plurality of control signals (n-th control signal is SP0 seen in fig. 21b; also note fig. 33, which shows a higher level view).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the inverter and power control of Nakajima's comparator with the power saving control circuit and its connections, as taught by Ogawa.

The motivation for doing so would have been to conserve power (col. 17, lines 41-45, Ogawa).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Ogawa with Nakajima for the benefit of power conservation to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

With respect to claim 8, Nakajima and Ogawa disclose, the liquid crystal display of claim 7 (see above).

Ogawa further discloses, analog buffers that are connected in the same manner as the applicants as shown above in claim 2. As can further be seen from fig. 45, Ogawa has numerous analog signals entering the output circuitry. It is thus clear that there are a "set of analog buffers" within the output circuitry of Ogawa.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a set of analog buffers in the display circuitry of Nakajima.

The motivation for doing so would have been to amplify the analog signal (Ogawa, col. 3, lines 27-32).

Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Ogawa and Nakajima for the benefit of amplifying the analog signal to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

With respect to claim 9, Nakajima and Ogawa disclose, the liquid crystal display device of claim 7 (see above).

Nakajima further discloses a set of level shifts (124 and 134 in fig. 1), each coupled between one of the latches (123 and 133 in fig. 1) and one of the digital-to-analog converters (125 and 135 in fig. 1) for amplifying the digital signal held by the corresponding latch to a signal having a high signal level and outputting the signal to the corresponding digital-to-analog converter (also note the merits of the rejection of claim 3 above).

With respect to claim 10, Nakajima and Ogawa disclose, the liquid crystal display device of claim 7 (see above).

Nakajima further discloses, wherein the level of the reference voltage is half the amplitude of the input digital signal (col. 21, lines 41-44; half the amplitude of the input digital signal in1 is within the disclosed range of 0 volts and Vp).

With respect to claim 11, the only difference between claim 11 and claim 7 is that the (n-1)-th control signals reset the comparator.

Ogawa further discloses suspending the operation of comparator (preparing it for the next comparison) (col. 17, lines 31-45) via the control signals.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2674

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Will Boddie whose telephone number is (571) 272-0666. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wib
1-4-06


XIAO WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER